

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 11, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification, claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action.

The specification is amended to correct a typographical error in the Title. Claim 9 is amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter is added. Claims 7-13 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,400,803 to Tate et al. (Tate). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7, from which claim 8 depends, recites a DSL suppression circuit for suppressing DSL mode operation on a local loop. The circuit including a loop current detector for sensing current drain on the local loop. The suppression circuit further includes a means for providing a suppression signal controllable by said loop current detector. The suppression circuit further includes a master DSL modem operative coupled to a subscriber line interference circuit (SLIC), said master DSL modem operating in a quiescent state upon receiving the suppression signal, wherein the SLIC provides power to a subscriber line during the quiescent state.

Claim 9, from which claims 10-13 depend, recites a method for providing a customer premise line connection to a DSL modem. The method includes, detecting

whether a line has a off-hook condition or an on-hook condition. The method further includes energizing a relay to couple the line to a DSL modem, wherein the line has said on-hook condition_in response to the DSL modem receiving a suppression signal. Still further, the method includes activating switching means for bypassing the DSL modem during a quiescent state.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims recited features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited reference.

Tate relates to a voiceover digital subscriber line call redirection for lifeline service. Tate describes, under a fault condition, a router that directs an incoming call to a selected port to provide a lifeline service. The router is arranged to monitor signals received at a subscriber loop port and selectively to disconnect at least one of the local subscriber ports responsive to signals. Referring to Figure 3 of Tate, a lifeline router 320 is arranged to receive signals passing between switch 301 and switches 331-334 and to provide output signals on outputs 321-324 that provide control signals to switches 331-334, respectively. Upon a loss of local power, switches 301 and 331-334 are arranged to default to provide a direct connection from subscriber loop port 340 via the direct link to switches 331-334 and to local subscriber ports 351-354. In lifeline mode, only one channel can be supported between the subscriber loop port and one of the local subscriber ports. Further, lifeline router 320 is used to receive redirection signals from a local exchange via subscriber loop port 340, whereby the control switches 331-334 provide local routing within customer premises equipment.

Applicants respectfully submit that Tate fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the pending claims. Specifically, regarding claim 7, Tate fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a master DSL modem operative coupled to a subscriber line interference circuit (SLIC), said master DSL modem operating in a quiescent state upon receiving the suppression signal arriving at the DSL, wherein the SLIC provides power to a subscriber line during the quiescent state, as recited in claim 7 (underline added). See at least paragraph [0033] of the present application. Tate fails to disclose that the DSL receives any signal which causes it to operate in a quiescent state. Instead, the DSL modem in Tate as shown in Figures 3 and 4 is merely taken off line when there is a loss of power. See column 4 lines 46-54 of Tate.

Further, regarding claim 9, Applicants respectfully submit that Tate fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of energizing a relay to couple the line to a DSL modem wherein the line has an on-hook condition in response to receiving a suppression signal. Instead, Tate describes detecting whether a line has a off-hook condition or an on-hook condition (whether or not the circuit is enabled/activated for a lifeline mode verses normal operation), energizing a relay to couple the line to a DSL modem, wherein the line has the on-hook condition (power applied to relay 301 in Figure 3 that closes 301 during normal operation) and opening the switch 301 for bypassing the DSL modem 310.

Applicants respectfully submit that because claims 8 and 10-13 depend from claims 7 and 9 respectively, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 7 and 9 as well as the additional features recited in these claims.

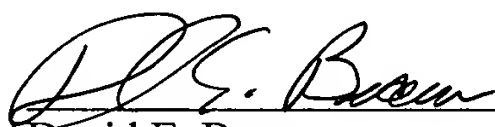
Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Tate fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that each of claims 7-13 recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each of claims 7-13 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


David E. Brown
Registration No. 51,091

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

DEB:jkm